

Wyoming

Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium

Joining Forces to Fight Cancer

Fall 2006

Consortium Update

The Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium is pleased to announce a new Chairperson. Eli Bebout, Riverton Businessman and cancer survivor, is joining Wyoming's fight against cancer. Eli is the President of Nucor Oil & Gas and also former Wyoming Speaker of the House. The chairperson position was taken to vote in August, and in September, it was official. Mr. Bebout was accepted by an overwhelming majority.

Mr. Bebout understands cancer at a personal level. He also understands barriers to policy surrounding healthcare access, screening, and programming through his experience at the Wyoming State Legislature. Eli believes in a person's responsibility to lead healthy lifestyles and educate themselves on when to screen. We are so very excited to have him on board. Welcome Eli!

Be on the lookout for ways to educate and inform Wyoming people about the plan. It will be very important as we move forward this year into Year II of implementation. Your ongoing support is

so very important. Thank you for everything you do and know that all WCCCC partners are valued.

The 2nd Annual Wyoming Cancer Conference was held November 2-3, 2006 in Sheridan, Wyoming. The conference was a hit! Conference participants will be receiving an evaluation via surveymonkey.com. Please be sure to let us know how we did, how we can improve the conference for next year, and speakers you'd like to invite!

The next consortium meeting will be held January 22, 2006. This will be a very exciting meeting. Our agenda will include meeting and visiting with Wyoming legislators about Comprehensive Cancer Control and the partnership effort, deciding our year II priority areas, and discussing the upcoming competitive grant for implementation dollars. It's a meeting you don't want to miss. For those of you who joined last year's Day of Hope event at the State Capitol, we are merging our meeting with the event to save on travel expenses and lodging for

members. We will have a press conference and exhibits in the capitol. If your agency is interested in an exhibit please contact Jessica Perez at jperez@state.wy.us or via telephone at 307.777.7362.

And last, our sincere condolences to Lisa Eades, one of our WCCCC Chairpersons. Lisa's father passed away on October 31, 2006 of Prostate Cancer.



Did you know?

- The American Cancer Society Estimates 2,500 new cancer cases and 1,010 cancer-related deaths in Wyoming in 2006. For more information please visit www.cancer.org.

- The Pain & Policy Studies group has unveiled the 2006 Progress Report on Pain Policy. All 50 states were evaluated on efforts to decrease chronic pain. Wyoming received a grade of C+, moving up from a C in 2003. To review the report: http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/Achieving_Balance/PRC2006.pdf

Inside this issue:

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month	2
Patient Advocate Day A Success	2
Comprehensive Cancer Control Leadership Institute	3
Early Detection County Profile Survey	3
Welcome to Kathryn Hess, CCC Outreach Specialist	3
WCCCC Save the Date	4



November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among men and women in America and in Wyoming.

According to the Wyoming Cancer Surveillance Program, in 2004, 268 cases of lung cancer were diagnosed and 212 Wyoming people died as a result of the disease.

Higher incidence rates for lung cancer from 2000-2004 were found in Converse, Campbell, Hot Springs, and Natrona counties.

In addition, Campbell, Weston, Big Horn, and Converse counties lead in lung cancer death rates for that same time period.

Smoking

Smoking is the number one risk factor for lung cancer. It is estimated that 87% of lung cancer deaths are caused by smoking. As soon as you quit, your body reaps the benefits of being

tobacco free. Quitting smoking is the BEST defense against lung cancer as your body will begin to heal within hours.

Radon Gas

EPA estimates that about 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S. are radon-related. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Radon is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas produced by the decay of naturally occurring uranium in soil and water. Radon is a form of ionizing radiation and a proven carcinogen. Lung cancer is the only known effect on human health from exposure to radon in air.

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

The current Surgeon General's Report concluded that scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to second hand smoke. Short exposures to second hand smoke can cause blood platelets to

become stickier, damage the lining of blood vessels, decrease coronary flow velocity reserves, and reduce heart rate variability, potentially increasing the risk of heart attack.

What can you do to reduce your lung cancer risk?

Stop Smoking – call Wyoming's free quit line to learn more about quitting.
1-800-QUITNOW

Protect Yourself from Radon Gas- Who can Test or Fix Your Home for Radon? Please contact the Wyoming Department of Health Radon Program for answers and free test kits. 307.777.6015 or online at <http://wdh.state.wy.us/radon/index.asp>

Refuse Second-Hand Smoke- Do not allow smoking in your home or in your car. Choose smokefree restaurants, and smokefree care facilities. For more information about Smokefree Wyoming please contact George Pitt at gpitt@state.wy.us or via telephone at 307.777.5699.

"It is a great feeling to be a part of Patient Advocate Day A Success

*a state where patient advocacy is
recognized as an important part of
the health care continuum." Pam
Hall, Welch Cancer Center*

Governor Dave Freudenthal signed a proclamation declaring August 30, 2006 Wyoming Patient Advocate Day. The Wyoming Patient Advocate Day proclamation is part of a national initiative celebrating patient advocacy. Patient Advocate Day affirms a state's support to stand in voice and in action as an advocate for the patient with regard to issues such as healthcare access, retrieving accurate healthcare information, and guidance in navigating the healthcare system. The day also celebrates the need to provide information to help patients make informed decisions about their health, as well as continued support and efforts by our government to overcome barriers to healthcare for all Wyoming people.

The Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, in

conjunction with the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium, joins efforts to improve healthcare access and reduce health-related disparities for all chronic diseases within the state.

Wyoming's cancer control plan outlines the importance of patient advocates, as well as providing education to all Wyoming people about patients' rights and informed decision-making.

This is a topic that not only affects cancer patients, but all those in Wyoming who are fighting chronic disease, such as heart disease, diabetes, and asthma. We need to begin to take a look at the big healthcare picture in Wyoming and collaborate to reduce common risk factors.

Wyoming resident Pam Hall of Sheridan promoted the

initiative with Governor Freudenthal last month after attending the National Patient Advocate Foundation Meeting in Washington DC.

"It is a great feeling to be a part of a state where patient advocacy is recognized as an important part of the health care continuum. I am proud to be a part of the WCCCC and the signing of this proclamation," says Pam Hall, Radiation Oncology Nurse at Welch Cancer Center.

Governor Freudenthal becomes the tenth Governor to declare a Patient Advocate Day in 2006, joining the Governor's of Iowa, Missouri, Nevada, New York, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia, who have already proclaimed a Patient Advocate Day this year.



Left to Right: Sen. Craig Thomas, and WCCCC members Pam Hall & Ann Jacobs

Comprehensive Cancer Control Leadership Institute

The Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Steering Committee met in Seattle for the Phase III CCC Leadership Institute. It was a fabulous training. Modules on Tobacco Control, Colorectal Cancer, Workforce, Palliative Care,

Clinical Trials, and Survivorship were offered. The focus of this institute was not only to build the year II workplan for the CCC program, but to build strong and meaningful partnerships with our American Indian/ Alaska Native populations. It was truly an outstanding training and all in attendance came back with something new and exciting to share at the upcoming January 2007 WCCCC meeting. (See back page for Save the Date Information)

The national CCC partners (such as CDC, ACS, C-Change, American College of Surgeons, the Intercultural Cancer Council, and more) did an amazing job coordinating the event and insuring participation of all Northwestern states.

In attendance from Wyoming was Kimberly Rogers, Kathryn Hess, Linda Chasson, Betty Sones, Pam Hall, Sue Howard, Loretta Wolf, Candy Amerine, and Mary Anne Purtzer.



Early Detection County Profile Survey

The Early Detection Workgroup within the WCCCC worked diligently to complete and disseminate a county profile survey to all 23 Wyoming counties. The purpose of the survey was to identify where cancer screening was available throughout the state, the providers that completed the screening, and other cancer-related resources available within that county.

Surveys were due October 30th, 2006 and the information is currently being placed into a database for evaluation.

The information collected will be utilized to identify gaps in screening and cancer resources.

Sue Howard, ED Workgroup Chair, is excited to see the results of the survey, and looks forward for the year II endeavor to promote and enhance the services available to Wyoming people.

Be on the lookout for a resource map on the upcoming Consortium website to be unveiled in January 2007.

"The Early Detection County Profile Survey will provide essential information in promoting a comprehensive approach to cancer control in our state" -Sue Howard, CCC Steering Committee

Welcome to Kathryn Hess, CCC Outreach Specialist

Many of you have had the pleasure of meeting Kathryn Hess (a.k.a.—Katie). Katie is the new Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Outreach Specialist. She comes to us from Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Katie graduated this past May from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelor's of Science in Health, with an emphasis on Community Health Education. While at UNC, Katie assisted in the creation of a campus tobacco policy. Katie is no stranger to cancer prevention and control. She

completed her internship with the American Cancer Society and also planned the 13th Annual Cattle Baron's Ball in Greeley.

While working for the WCCCCP, Katie will provide information, coordination, and technical support to WCCCC workgroups, as well as coordinate the annual cancer conference.

She will coordinate the WCCCC newsletter, create quarterly cancer information care packages, and develop culturally appropriate articles and brochures for

community outreach purposes. If you need to contact Katie, you may reach her at khess@state.wy.us or via telephone at 307.777.1918.



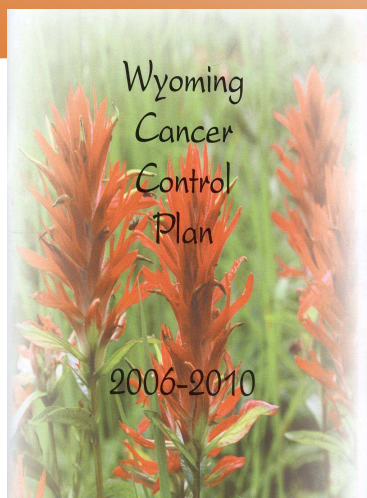
Kathryn Hess, CCC Outreach Specialist

**Wyoming Department of Health
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program**

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FIRST CLASS

MAIL



For a copy of the 2006-2010 Wyoming
Cancer Control Plan please visit the
web at <http://wdh.state.wy.us/ccp>

SAVE THE DATE!!

The Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium meeting will be held Monday, January 22nd, in Cheyenne Wyoming from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Herschler Building, Room 1299. Lunch will be provided. This meeting is to promote funding for the CCC plan. If ever there was a meeting we need you, it 's this one!

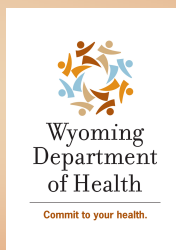
A special invite will follow. If you are not on the WCCCC list, please request an invite by calling Jessica Perez at 307.777.7362 or contacting Jessica via email jperez@state.wy.us.

Contacts

and information

Submit articles to: Kathryn Hess

Call for information: (307) 777.1918



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